

FISHERMAN, WILLOW CREEK, BRENTON LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

January 1 - April 30, 1954

REFUGE PERSONNEL

John E. Schwartz, Supt. of Refuges, Meiese, Montana

Grover F. Elgan, Refuge Manager, Charlo, Montana

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Charlo, Montana

PISHKUN, WILLOW CREEK, BENTON LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
Narrative Report
January 1 - April 30, 1954

I. General.

A. Weather Conditions.

Following is a table of weather data as reported by the County Agent's office in Choteau, Montana. Since no inspection trips were made to these areas during this report period no first - hand account of conditions can be reported.

Month:	Snow	Precipitations:	Max. Temp.:	Min. Temp.:
January	12.5"	.49	58	-41
February	4.5"	1.70	70	0
March	11.0"	.65	60	-16
April	unavailable			
Total	28"	2.84 extremes	70	-41

B. Water Conditions:

Following are tables showing the comparative gauge readings for this report period during the past five years.

PISHKUN

End of:	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
January	4363.2	4361.1	4365.4	4361.9	4362.0
February	4363.1	4360.9	4365.2	4361.8	4361.8
March	4363.0	4360.7	4365.0	4361.8	4361.7
April	unavailable	4362.6	4365.3	4361.9	4366.1

Crest of Spillway 4374.0

Bottom of Outlet 4342.0

WILLOW CREEK

End of:	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
January	4137.1	4132.7	4135.4	4135.4	4106.9
February	4137.8	4132.9	4136.0	4135.9	4108.7
March	4138.2	4134.0	4137.1	4137.5	4110.9
April	unavailable	4139.1	4138.1	4138.3	4115.9

Crest of Spillway 4142

Bottom of Outlet 4085

BENTON LAKE


Since no guage stations are maintained at Benton Lake only sketch resume of water conditions can be given in this report. Mr. Schwartz, Superintendent of the National Bison Range, made the only inspection trip during the period. Following is his discription of existing conditions as they appeared to him early in April. Water, which was very high during the past year, has receded until it is approximately half gone. The water level is still sufficiently high, however, to supply a good resting-rearing area for waterfowl. No Spring runoff has occurred to raise the water level, and that water in the lake is what was left over from the past year.

Food and cover conditions, while not ideal, are thought to be sufficiently good for any waterfowl nesting on the area. The forage surrounding the water area is dry and not too palatable for stock.

When the Spring runoff is over it is hoped the water level will once more be at a maximum and forage conditions will be greatly improved.

Since no other pertinent information is available as to waterfowl numbers or other wildlife data the foregoing report will have to suffice for this period. During next period, when travel money is again available, more information can be obtained and reported.

Respectfully submitted


Grover F. Elgan
Refuge Manager

Completed May 5, 1954

Approved: John E. Schwartz Date _____
Superintendent

Approved: _____ Date _____
Regional Director
Fish and Wildlife Service
Region One, Portland, Oregon.



Old Canal on Eastern portion of refuge
filled with water,



Benton Lake looking West from Bootlegger
trail showing extent of water area.



Looking West across Benton Lake.

